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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/821,722	03/29/2001	Martin R. Handforth	13888ROUS02U	4607

7590

07/03/2003

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EXAMINER

NORRIS, JEREMY C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/821,722

Applicant(s)

HANDFORTH ET AL.

Examiner

Jeremy C. Norris

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-11 and 14-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,061,246, granted to Oh et al. (hereafter Oh).

Oh discloses, referring to figure 6, an interconnection device comprising: first and second outer layers (121), each including substrate material, and at least one inner layer (122) disposed between said first and second outer layers, said inner layer including at least one conductive trace (141) disposed on substrate material proximate to an edge of the interconnection device and being accessible for direct electrical connection [claim 1], wherein said conductive inner layer trace extends outward from the edge of the interconnection device [claim 2], wherein at least a portion of said first outer layer is removed to provide access to said conductive inner layer trace [claim 3], wherein said inner layer material is organic (see col. 4, lines 40-45) [claim 13].

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 24 January 2003, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-6 and 12 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US

5,136,471 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-6 and 12 on these grounds has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 24 January 2003 with respect to the rejection of claims 1-3 and 13 under USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,061,246 (hereafter Oh) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that Oh fails to anticipate the instantly claimed invention because Oh fails to disclose that the conductive traces are "accessible for direct electrical connection". In support of this argument, Applicants refer to column 5, lines 13-18 of Oh which states:

The conductive lines 141 on flexible layer 122 extend from be conductive via holes 125 onto be flexible extension 140 and are electrically connected to the LCD panel 110 using anisotropic conductive film 132, solder or other electrical connection techniques"

However, Examiner submits that this very passage demonstrates that the conductive traces of Oh are indeed "accessible for direct electrical connection". First, Examiner notes that Applicants' claim language including the term "accessible" means that the traces only need to have the *ability* to be connected directly, not that they actual need to be connected in that manner. Secondly, the fact that the traces of Oh can have solder or anisotropic film deposited on them displays that the traces are "accessible". But, what would be most understood by an artisan of ordinary skill is the fact that "direct electrical connection" is indeed covered by the phraseology "other electrical connection techniques". Unless Applicants can proffer some evidence that one of ordinary skill in the printed circuit board art would not believe that "direct electrical connection" is not an 'electrical connection technique', it will remain Examiner's position that the instantly

claimed invention is anticipated by Oh. Therefore, the traversal on these grounds is deemed unsuccessful.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 –6 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

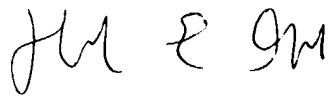
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Talbott can be reached on 703-305-9883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-0725 for regular communications and 703-308-0725 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

JCSN
June 26, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J M E G M".

DAVID E. GRAYBILL
PRIMARY EXAMINER